

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03531 130929Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----039062 131001Z /14

R 130823Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1201
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 3531

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TC, KU
SUBJECT: POLITICAL TENSIONS IN THE UAE

REF: STATE 141246

1. CHARGE CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL JUNE 12 WITH
ACTING DIRECTOR OF ARAB AFFAIRS, MFA, IBRAHIM
AL-MOOSA. MAKING CLEAR HE WAS SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS,
AND CLOSELY FOLLOWING POINTS GIVEN PARA. 2 REFTEL, CHARGE
EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO EFFORTS BY GULF STATES
THEMSELVES TO PRESERVE REGIONAL STABILITY AT A TIME WHEN
EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, IRAN, AND HORN OF AFRICA, ESPECIALLY,
ARE CAUSING CONCERN IN GULF CAPITALS. POSSIBILITY THAT
FEDERATION IN UAE MIGHT COME APART STRUCK US AS CAUSE FOR
CONCERN OF ALL GULF STATES IN THIS CONTEXT. CHARGE
SAID THAT USG IS MAKING THIS POINT IN TEHRAN AND RIYADH
SUGGESTING THAT SAUDIS AND IRANIANS USE THEIR INFLUENCE

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IN FAVOR OF PRESERVATION OF FEDERATION.

2. AL-MOOSA ASKED WHETHER WE VIEWED SITUATION IN UAE
AS CRITICAL AND STATED THAT GOK HAS NO FIRM EVIDENCE
THAT ANY RULER THERE WISHES TO SECEDE FROM UNION.
CHARGE SAID THAT WE DO NOT THINK A RUPTURE IS LIKELY,
BUT THAT THE RISK IS GREATER NOW THAN EVER BEFORE AND

THAT THE UNSETTLED SITUATION IN THE REGION AS A WHOLE
AT THIS TIME RENDERS THAT RISK EVEN LESS TOLERABLE THAN
FORMERLY.

3. AL-MOOSA EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT SHEIKH RASHID OF
DUBAI IS UNUSUALLY CLEVER AND AMBITIOUS. HE SAID RASHID
MIGHT ASPIRE TO BE HEAD OF STATE, BUT WOULD NOT WISH TO
LEAD DUBAI OUT OF THE UNION. HE SAID IT IS KUWAITI
POLICY TO AVOID TAKING SIDES AMONG RULERS IN THE EMIRATES
AND HE SAID HE WAS SURE THAT IF A SERIOUS RISK OF RUPTURE
Arose, KUWAIT WOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO PREVENT IT. HE
CITED ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH GOK HAD WORKED FOR FORMATION
OF THE FEDERATION TO INCLUDE ALSO BAHRAIN AND QATAR, AND
GOK DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THESE TWO STATES HAD REMAINED
OUTSIDE.

4. THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, RAISED
SAME SUBJECT WITH ACTING UNDERSECRETARY OF MFA JUNE 11.
HE WAS TOLD THAT KUWAIT SHARES US/UK CONCERN ABOUT
POSSIBLE DESTABILIZING EFFECTS OF STRAINS WITHIN THE
FEDERATION. BUT THAT KUWAIT HAD NOT INVOLVED ITSELF
AND DOES NOT WISH TO DO SO. ACTING UNDERSECRETARY SAID
HE THOUGHT THE SAUDIS WERE PLAYING A ROLE IN FAVOR OF
PRESERVATION OF THE FEDERATION AND THAT THEY ARE MUCH
BETTER POSITIONED THAN KUWAIT TO DO SO.

SUTHERLAND

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